

APPENDIX 2 OUR CHURCHES IN DETAIL

Blofield **St Andrew and St Peter** **NR13 4NA** www.blofieldchurch.org.uk

St Andrew and St Peter is the largest church building between Norwich and Great Yarmouth, it is well-maintained with a modern heating system, toilet, kitchen and versatile communal area. The church has been open daily for a number of years which has helped to bring the church and village closer together.

Built on the site of an earlier Saxo-Norman, round towered church, Blofield Church's foot print is today much as it was at the time of its dedication in 1427. Work began in the 1380s with completion of the tower in 1436.

The church consists of a north porch, west tower, nave, north and south aisles and a chancel. The nave & aisles date from 1380–90; the arcades, clerestory, chancel and east window c.1400 and the tower between 1426 and 1436.

The building owes its size and importance to the prosperity of the wool trade in Norfolk at that time and to the presence of the Bishop who had a palace in the village. It is the largest church in the Blofield Deanery.

There are eight bells rung by a team of enthusiastic bellringers on Sundays and special occasions. The church has internet connection through Wi-spire.

The Churchyard is closed to new burials but has two areas set aside for cremated remains. The graveyard is looked after by the Parish Council and includes an actively managed Conservation area, being a pioneer in the Diocesan Churchyard Conservation Scheme 40 years ago. The village now shares a cemetery with Brundall, on the outskirts of the village.

We are an active, prayerful and loving church family with a real sense of community, offering hospitality and acceptance, inclusive of those in need of nourishment who come through our door or reach out to us from the community by offering practical help and support.

Pastoral care is fundamental to the love of our neighbour. Monday prayers offer support for our congregation

We have a busy, weekly, well-established baby and toddler group, (Play Church), a twice monthly lunch group (Open Doors) for

friendship and company and a weekly coffee morning after the midweek service, open to the community, walking groups and the vulnerable in our villages. These groups are run by enthusiastic volunteers.

There is an attractive children's corner, used on Sundays and throughout the week for visiting children. Activities are prepared for young children during Baptisms and also for the Play Church toddler group.

We are a Foodbank collection point and have a real enthusiasm for reaching folk in our community, spiritually, practically and as well-being champions.

Our church is known in the community through social and charity fundraising events, concerts and involvement in village life. Through these events a warm welcome is extended to all.

Our beautiful church building offers a sense of peace and the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is open daily.

At present our worship pattern of Sunday and Wednesday midweek services are mainly middle of the road Anglican with the Priest robed and hymns sung. Currently they alternate between Holy Communion and Morning Prayer. We have the generous help of three retired clergy, an ordained Priest and two AWA's. Members of the congregation take part in intercessions, readings, sides people duties and as Eucharist assistants.

Whilst most of our congregation are of the older generation, with many families in our community, there is definite scope to broaden our offering of worship to include more family-orientated services or new ways to 'do church'.

We strive to be a community of Christians which is seeking to share the love of God with all who visit us; to provide comfort, support and a place of welcome to all in our community, and to encourage those within the congregation to grow, deepen and strengthen their own faith and become as involved in church life and service as they feel called to be.

Monday morning prayers are our opportunity for a few people to gather and pray for our church family as well as those in our community.

The Paston family

The Manor of Blofield, in the late 16th and 17th centuries, was held by a branch of the famous Norfolk family of Paston including Edward Paston who commissioned a survey of his lands here in 1586. Edward is buried in the church and fine memorials in the chancel tell us of his family. <https://www.thisispaston.co.uk/>

Stained glass

The windows feature high quality Victorian and modern stained glass from the Tuck window of 1878 to those of the 20th century. Those in memory of Margaret Harker are of particular local interest.

Font

Dating from the 15th century the font is unique in Europe. Nikolaus Pevsner noted its exceptional interest in having a scene from the life of Christ on each face of its octagonal bowl.

These are the Nativity, the Flight into Egypt, possibly Christ before Pilate, the Crowning with Thorns, the Scourging at the Pillar, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, the Ascension.

The Pews

Many have carved poppy-heads, thought to date from the fifteenth century. Some pews have elbow pieces, buttressed arm rests, with various carved figures. Perhaps the best of the figures are those of a bishop seated in a chair, a man with a rosary kneeling at a faldstool [a folding reading desk] and various animals including a griffon, the crest of the Paston family.

All the benches were originally backless but were renovated and altered in 1819. The eight pews with doors at the west end of the central aisle are late 18th century.

Bells

Of the eight bells hung for change-ringing, the five oldest were cast by Norwich bell founders in the mid fifteenth century, 1581, 1656, 1660 and 1719 and a sixth bell was cast by T Mears of London in 1826. Two more were acquired from the redundant church of St

Mary Magdalene in Thetford in 1979. Originally cast by John Draper of Thetford in 1680 and 1760 they were re-cast at Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London. The augmented peal was first rung on February 14th 1980. An additional chiming only bell was hung in June 2003, also cast at the Whitechapel Foundry, given in memory of Roy and Marjorie Granger. In the ringing chamber is a tablet recording a peal of 5040 changes rung in 1827 after the sixth bell was hung.

Rood screen (lower)

Painted panels depict the twelve apostles. From north to south they run as follows:

Matthias, James the Less, Thomas, John the Evangelist, James the Great, Andrew, and (continuing on the other side) Peter, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Jude and Simon.

The panels were heavily painted over and varnished in the 19th century though a considerable amount of medieval painting is still visible.

Memorials

In addition to those of the Pastons, interesting wall memorials in the chancel include one to the Revd. Charles Reve, Rector from 1671 - 1727, a benefactor of the church and parish and another to Peter Deneaw died Feb. 6th 1678.

Also of interest is a ledger slab/stone near the west end of the nave which bears a Chalice Indent indicating that a priest was buried there. The brass chalice shape has at some time been removed.

Hemblington All Saints NR13 4EF www.hemblingtonchurch.org.uk

Hemblington sits in the middle of the beautiful Norfolk countryside on high ground in the North East corner of the parish of Hemblington, one mile from the joint settlements of Hemblington and Blofield Heath. We are not sure when it was constructed but is believed to be around 1060-1100. It is one of the many round tower churches to be found in Norfolk. It contains what is regarded as one of the best preserved wall paintings depicting the life of St Christopher as well as an eight sided font with figures of Saints and

other characters within the niches on every side of both the bowl and the stem.

The Church is well maintained and is in good condition, with major work being undertaken on the windows and bells in 2024 which brought us up to date with all works arising from our 2022 Quinquennial inspection. We have a relatively new extension (2008) providing a toilet and level access along with a kitchen area.

It is open to the public every day for the public to access for prayer, quiet reflection and tea and biscuits!

Please look at our website www.hemblingtonchurch.org.uk for more information

As a church set in the middle of a field with limited facilities on-site, we have worked hard over the years to raise and maintain the profile of the church both within and as part of the communities of Blofield Heath, Hemblington and Pedham. As well as the activities listed below we actively support village events e.g. Heathlands Community Centre's fortnightly Lunch Club, Garage Sales, Christmas Fayres etc.

Pilgrim Group: Meet monthly for either Bible Study or a mutually agreed topic.

Make & Mardle: A monthly drop-in session held in the Church in summer and a local private house in the winter months for coffee, cake, chat and optional craft.

Care Visiting (Anna Chaplaincy): Once a month the clergy take Communion into our three local Care Homes. In between times a team of visitors undertake monthly visits to individual residents to provide company and conversation.

School: We work closely with Hemblington Primary School, hosting regular visits as part of the RE curriculum, attending School Assemblies and funding bibles for year 6 pupils. For the last two years we have hosted the entire school undertaking outdoor nature activities as part of the Count on Nature/Great Big Green Week

Friends of Hemblington Church

Since 2016 we have been incredibly fortunate to be supported by our Friends Group. They have organised a range of events including concerts, talks and art exhibitions. They have also been instrumental, alongside local conservation groups, in developing and

maintaining the churchyard as a wildlife haven which is now recognised as an exemplar by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. This includes organising an annual RSPB birdwatch survey and undertaking monthly audits of flora and fauna within the churchyard.

More details of the Friends and their activities can be found on their Facebook page

South Walsham **St Mary's Church** NR13 6DQ www.achurchnearyou.com

South Walsham is a Broadland village with mixed housing. A number of people work either in Norwich or Great Yarmouth. There is a Church of England VA primary school (see 'Schools' section of this Appendix).

Opposite the school Fairhaven Water Gardens attracts many visitors. South Walsham has two picturesque linked Broads which are popular with boaters and walkers. There's a large Village Hall which supports various local societies together with a well-maintained sports ground for football, cricket and bowls clubs.

The parish of St Mary's shares a closed churchyard with the St Lawrence's Centre. Great interest is shown by visitors into the history of two churches in the same churchyard.

St Mary's is a large, Grade I listed flint building full of interesting features and mostly dates back to the 13th/early 14th century. It consists of a tower, nave, north and south aisles, a chancel and porch. Bays in the Nave are supported by octagonal piers and may once have been side chapels. The benches in the Nave with their original 'poppy head' ends and the font date back to the 15th century. The rood screen has also survived and still has its doors and iron fittings. The window glass is 19th or early 20th century and one window is from the workshop of William Morris.

The choir stalls are at the back, near the organ which comes forward into the church. The organ was bought from The Assembly House in Norwich by Lord Fairhaven. A choir has recently been formed and they have enhanced the singing at the special services.

A 'Children's Corner' on the theme of the Garden of Eden was created in the south aisle.

There are a number of beautiful stained glass windows - 19th or early 20th century and one is from the workshop of William Morris. A

more recent window was installed in 2005 thanks to a generous legacy. The Astronomy window in the south nave is also of particular interest.

The church is in a very good state of repair with work recently carried out on the north side of the nave to replace old guttering and downpipes. A careful eye is kept on the fabric of the church so that any problems are dealt with as they arise. The south aisle was re-leaded in 2009. Pew heating was installed in 2006. In November 2024 all the current lights are due to be changed over to LEDs.

There is a thriving local bell-ringing team and, from time to time, visiting ringers enjoy ringing here.

St Mary's supports the foodbank in Great Yarmouth.

Collectively each churchwarden, under the auspices of the South Walsham, Upton and Fishley PCC, has commenced a Stewardship Campaign.

Fund raising events are organised to bring the church community and wider village community together.

St Mary's sponsors two teams (in name only) in the Norfolk Christian Football League.

Special Services

Christmas and Easter are particularly memorable occasions. The Crib and Christingle service on Christmas Eve fills St Mary's with children and their families, 150 people not being unusual. At Easter the Bitternes – young Christians from all over the country – come during an annual boating holiday to lead the service in song and celebration. The church is full for this service too as it is when Fairhaven School hold their Harvest and Nativity services in October and December.

For three years an annual Christmas Tree Festival has been held which has involved many local organisations contributing, the result being a large number of very varied and beautiful trees on display. The centre-piece is a magnificent tree kindly donated by various local land owners on which stars are hung at the annual Tree of Light service for those who have been bereaved.

Bi-annual Flower Festivals are held and various fund-raising events involving the local community. Annually Songs of Praise take place

(outside when fine) with the school children taking a strong lead. The collection from the service goes towards buying Bibles for the children leaving Fairhaven School and bible story books for new pupils.

The St Lawrence's Centre

The Church is in the same churchyard as St Mary's. St Lawrence's was built a century later than St Mary's but in 1827 a fire destroyed the nave and half of the tower. Following some repairs it continued to be used as a church until merging with St Mary's in 1890. It continued to be used until abandoned in 1946. The Grade II building was restored in the 1990s and is now a Centre used once a month for a Family Service and regular classes eg Pilates, Art, South Walsham Guides and Monday Munch - a monthly luncheon club.

The local Brownie Group hold their meetings in the School.

The Richard Harrold Charity

This charity helps young people under 25 who live in South Walsham and its object is to help them with transport, books, lodging, special clothing, tools or any other equipment required when leaving school or starting apprenticeships, college or anything similar.

The Trustees include the Incumbent, two members nominated by the Parish Council and two nominated by the PCC. There is also a Clerk to the Trustees; three meetings per annum take place via Zoom.

There is also the South Walsham Parish Charity which is an amalgamation of four old, small charities and occasionally, but rarely, gives small grants to residents. It has the same trustees and meets at the same time as the Richard Harrold Charity.

Upton St Margaret's Church NR13 6AR www.achurchnearyou.com

Upton is surrounded by agricultural land which extends to marshes bordering the River Bure. The Norfolk Wildlife Trust manages the marshland and many species can be seen here such as Marsh Harrier, Barn and Short-eared owl and deer.

Upton boat dyke gives access to the river and a small boatyard operates from the Staithe. Visitors holidaying on the Norfolk Broads

come to the village to buy provisions at the community-run shop and visit the pub which was bought by the village in 2012 and is run by a committed group of villagers.

Upton has a residential home called Broadland Park which members of the church visit regularly to sing hymns, pray and chat with the residents. There is also a Ladies Fellowship meeting once a month in the Village Hall with a variety of speakers giving talks based around the Christian ethos and other topics. Members from surrounding villages are welcomed to hear the speakers and enjoy the companionship provided.

The Church is about a quarter of a mile from the main part of the village and is open daily 10am-4pm. It is a large Grade I listed building, the oldest part being 12th century with the main body dating from 1879. It lies within a large churchyard which is now the responsibility of the Parish Council.

An active 'Friends of St Margaret's Church' was formed in 2005 and has fifty members. The purpose of this group is to help maintain the fabric of the church by organising events to raise funds as well as looking at other ways the church can be used. In 2012, the Friends had raised enough funds, together with grants, to build a kitchen and WC. Much of the physical work was done by members of the congregation. A new heating system was installed in 2022.

Through the Chancel repair liability, works executed by the Church Commissioners took place during July/August 2024. This involved repairs to a window in the Chancel and also structural repairs to the East Gable.

In 2017, the 19th century Holdich organ, played regularly for Sunday services and concerts, was totally dismantled and restored by professionals with Heritage Lottery Fund money applied for by a group of enthusiasts from within the Benefice. Under the terms of the HLF grant, two organ scholarships of three years' duration were awarded to young applicants. Both candidates completed their training in 2023. This scheme will continue while funding is available with one candidate hopefully starting in September 2024. Training is conducted under the Young Organ Scholars' Trust.

Collectively each churchwarden, under the auspices of the South Walsham, Upton and Fishley PCC, has commenced a Stewardship Campaign.

Special Services

A service of Remembrance is held in November attended by representatives of the British Legion, South Walsham Guides and Brownies. Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve is a well attended service.

A series of concerts is held each year with various choirs and musicians taking part. Other events held from time to time include "Arts and crafts in a country church, Christmas Tree and Flower Festivals.

Fishley St Mary's Church NR13 6DA www.achurchnearyou.com

Fishley now consists of the church and Fishley Hall. The village was a settlement recorded in the Domesday Book. Today, Fishley is one of the lost hamlets in Norfolk and is unique in the Norwich Diocese as having virtually no permanent residents in the Parish.

The church of St Mary's is situated a quarter of a mile across the fields off the South Walsham road midway between Upton and Acle. It is set in a high, isolated position which once would have overlooked a wide tidal estuary. The church has two services per month and is the perfect venue for intimate weddings that can seat 80 people. It still has a hand pumped organ dating from 1781 that came out of the old Fishley Hall, on the Estate.

Fishley is an iconic, round-towered church that has undergone substantial restoration and regeneration. The showcasing of these endeavours has twice been recognised in two successive years by the English Heritage Angel Awards. Step back in time and visit this church seemingly dropped from heaven and set amidst 350 acres of rolling farmland just north of the village of Acle. A little gem hidden in the Norfolk countryside that overlooks the Acle marshes with glorious views across the river Bure and beyond.

The churchwarden hosts a Fishley Heritage Open Day every Friday from 11am until 4pm. On these days the public share in a warm welcome to this church and are told about the complexities of its architecture, hear and see some of its 1200 year heritage and its relevance in the 21st century. The purpose behind our commitment is to promote its social, cultural and historical attributes, together with encouraging an interest in funding a continuing programme of conservation and outreach. This enables volunteers and the visitor alike to participate in its ongoing restoration and regeneration both as a place of worship and cultural heritage.

Collectively each churchwarden, under the auspices of the South Walsham, Upton and Fishley PCC, has commenced a Stewardship Campaign.

Special Services

The Easter Sunrise Service which, in the past, has been broadcast on local radio, is a highlight of the year and the Christmas service of Carols, Candles and Cake is hugely popular.

Ranworth St Helen's NR13 6HS www.ranworthchurch.com

Our congregation is happy and well established, it also becomes apparent, when examining the last eighteen years, it is a congregation that is not resistant to change. Our core weekly congregation is sixteen, with a further six who come regularly once or twice a month. Threequarters of the congregation have been worshipping at St Helen's for over twenty-five years. Of our wider congregation eight live in the village, two live in Panxworth, the remainder reside in local villages (South Walsham, Salhouse and Acle). The community spirit of the whole village is extremely strong and willing to instantly drop whatever they are doing to help anyone who needs it, whether it is a health alert or just changing a wheel on a car.

There is a willingness to volunteer with St Helen's Visitors' Centre Tearoom, locking and unlocking the church, maintaining the church gardens, as well as supporting the Village Hall and all that entails. A few houses in Ranworth are second homes but the same community spirit is there.

In the winter months there is a regular weekly Coffee Morning in St Helen's Visitors' Centre on a Tuesday which is attended by Ranworth and Panxworth residents as well as people from further away. The generous donations received from the 'Tuesday Club' have been deposited in the restricted 'Kitchen Fund', the fund for refurbishing the Visitors Centre kitchen.

Both Ranworth and Panxworth are linear villages whose origins predate the Norman invasion. Panxworth is a village on the busy Wroxham to Acle road through the Northern Broads. Ranworth with Panxworth PCC has a responsibility for the site of All Saints Panxworth comprising the footprint of an earlier church within an open space, restored listed 14C tower and graveyard. Panxworth residents have a right to be buried here.

Ranworth St Helen's is a two cell flint church, in well kept surroundings overlooking Malthouse Broad and adjacent to Ranworth Broad. The village needs no introduction as a very popular tourist destination, an estimated 12,000 visitors make their way to the church each year. The planned improvements to the A47 and in particular the new bridge connecting Blofield with North Burlingham removes a major obstacle to the consolidation of the larger benefice.

The engagement with our visitors offers an enormous outreach opportunity, The unique bond formed between St Helen's and her many visitors spans hundreds of miles and expresses itself in many ways, attendance at services, return visits for quiet contemplation of significant issues, the joy of examining internationally renowned medieval artefacts including a fine example of Chancel screen and mediaeval antiphoner. Underpinning this is a congregation determined to offer each visitor the unselfish, warm, greeting as if that visitor was Christ.

The church offers good acoustics, the internal space supports quiet contemplation.

Fellowship is very important and is a major factor in the running of St Helen's. We have the advantage of after service refreshments in the Church tea room, which at other times is a commercially run tea room operation and major fund raiser.

We are looking at initiatives in which the villages of Ranworth and Panxworth might feel able to engage with us and the building. A pre-Christmas meet your neighbour event was a great success. In addition, and centred on the tea rooms, charity fundraiser coffee mornings are contemplated.

The tea rooms operate on a commercial basis, with an entirely volunteer labour force. Trip advisor, other similar websites and our visitor books bear testimony to the positive experience of being with us.

All attendees at our morning service participate in one way or another in the running of the church, i.e. Leading worship, Leading singing, Bell Ringing, Flowers, Readers, PCC, Repairs and maintenance, Internments and Burials in the graveyard, Maintaining the visitors' centre garden, Volunteering in the Visitors centre to both provision the stores and to serve our visitors.

North Burlingham **St Andrews** NR13 4TA www.northburlinghamchurch.org.uk

North Burlingham is a very small village mentioned in the Domesday Book, with approximately one hundred people covering a large area. It was once part of two large estates, sold in 1920 and bought by Norfolk County Council. The land was divided into smallholdings and let to tenants. Some of these still remain but many of the cottages which have been sold are privately owned. The village is divided by the busy A47, the main road, which is currently being dualled.

The village has two churches, one of which is a ruin (St. Peter) and is privately owned. St. Andrews is in a good state of repair and a bequest for the upkeep of the fabric means that there are few worries after the quinquennial reports.

St. Andrews is currently locked as there are concerns about a rotten floorboard. There is no PCC so management is by the present incumbent with the Benefice's other PCC's.

There are no schools in North Burlingham. However the village is covered via pre-schools and infant schools at Blofield, Hemblington and South Walsham and Acle. There is a high school in Acle.

The village has a vibrant community, although small. Village events are well attended and an annual open gardens being the highlight. The woods surrounding the church has many paths sponsored by Norfolk County Council which are popular. Many people visited the church when passing. Until recently the church was open every day on a time lock which provided solace and private prayer.

Woodbastwick **Saints Fabian & Sebastian** NR13 6HJ www.norfolkchurches.co.uk;
www.exploringnorfolkschurches.org; www.gilbertscott.org

Woodbastwick Church is a single building in relatively good repair consisting of a flint built nave, chancel, and vestry under local Norfolk reed thatch and a tower containing two bells in good condition. The chancel and vestry were re-thatched and underlying repairs of stonework and roof timbers were completed in 2004. The nave south side and ridge were re-thatched in 1988 but are now showing signs of dilapidation and will need replacing within a few years as the church is at the centre of the village conservation area.

Surprisingly, the nave north side, last re-thatched in 1935, is in quite good condition.

The interior of the church is also in good condition although some replacement lime plaster is needed in several places. There is no water supply to the church but the electrical power circuits and lighting throughout the church and vestry have been rewired and renewed within the last few years.

A ramp for wheelchair visitors allows access to the Church and an upgrade of the existing audio system would profit the hard of hearing.

There are a number of websites providing significant detail on this prettiest of churches:

www.norfolkchurches.co.uk

www.exploringnorfolkschurches.org

www.gilbertscott.org

Appendix 3

Fairhaven Church of England (VA) Primary School (South Walsham) www.southwalshamfairhaven.norfolk.sch.uk

We are a small, rural Church of England school situated within the Broadside Benifice for children aged between 4 and 11. Our catchment area is the local community of South Walsham, Ranworth, Panxworth and Upton, however, we have many children on roll who live outside this area. Parents/carers often choose the school because of our Christian ethos.

Our Christian vision strives to provide a variety of learning experiences for all our young people. We encourage our pupils to explore their interests, find their talents, flourish and live life to the full. We want our children to live great lives and ultimately make a difference to the world.

We are looking for a member of the clergy who will take an active role in helping lead the Christian distinctiveness of our school and the spirituality of our pupils. They will be able to do this in the following ways:

- Each school term we have a central theme around which daily acts of collective worship are planned. We would welcome theological input into the planning of these alongside regular visits during the school year to help lead collective worship.
- We follow the Church calendar and hold services in St Mary's, South Walsham at significant times of the year for pupils and their families. The new incumbent would be able to be part of these services.
- Our ideal person will be able to interact with the children at their level and be able to bring the Christian message into modern day life in a fun and exciting way, so that children can relate to it whether they have a Christian faith or not.
- A place is available for the new incumbent on our Governing Board. In this capacity the incumbent would help to develop, monitor and evaluate our school's Christian vision.
- The children have expressed their specific wish for a person who is kind, caring, patient and understanding with a good sense of humour and a willingness to share their hobbies and interests.
- Upholding the school's core values of 'Belief, Friendship, Diversity, Achievement', in all aspects of their work with the school.

The Headteacher and Governors look forward to working alongside the successful candidate.

Mrs Stephanie Lake

Headteacher— Fairhaven CE VA Primary School